(d) if so, the details thereof and it not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Supply of Coconut Oil Through PDS

844. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whehter Government have any proposal to supply coconut oil through the Public Distribution System to meet the growing demand of edible oil in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to popularise the use of coconut oil?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not airse;

(c) The Ministers-in-charge of Food and Civil Supplies of all States/UTs have been requested to explore the possibility of procuring and supplying adequate quantities of coconut oil to consumers through fair price shops/Cooperative outlets. The use of coconut oil, without any upward limit, has also been permitted in the manufacture of vanaspati.

Supply of Commodities Under PDS

845. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised a "foolproof" policy to ensure that foodgrains and other essential commodities covered under the Public Distribution System (PDS) reach the target population at affordable prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether emphasis has been laid on ensuring that the items disbursed under the PDS are of good quality;

(d) if so, whether quality control is being insured; if not, the reasons thereof;

(e) whether the quality of wheat and rice being distributed through the PDS is generally of inferior quality and complaints have been received in this regard; and

(f) if so, what measures Government have taken in this regard and the steps taken to provide quality wheat and rice through the PDS?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (f) The implementation of the Public Distribution System (PDS) is the joint responsibility of Central and State Governments. The Central Government is responsible for the procurement, storage, transportation and bulk allocation of key essential commodities such as rice, wheat, levy sugar, imported edible oils, superior kerosene oil and soft/CIL coke to the States/UTs. State Government/UT Administrations are responsible for all operational matters relating to the distribution of commodities to the consumers within their State/UT. The strengthening and streamlining of the PDS is a continuous process. Suggestions to impove the functioning of PDS are discussed regularly with States/UTs in the meetings of the Advisory Council on PDS as well as in separate Review Meetings.

Central Government has advised State Govenrments to introduce Door Step Delivery of PDS commodities to the Fair Price Shops in the areas covered under the Revamped PDS and to constitute Fair